ABSTRACT

A utility for comparing two objects in an object-oriented operating system that also records the differences so that they may be put into human-readable form. In one exemplary embodiment of this invention, two Java objects are compared by calling one of the equality methods. If the selected equality method indicates that there is a difference between the two objects, then get...() methods of each object are invoked in turn. The results get...() methods are compared. If there are differences, the differences are stored in an XML document. The get...() method is recursively invoked until the Class of the result has no more get...() methods to decompose.